AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Serial Number: 09/237,219
Filing Date: January 25, 1999
Title: SYSTEM, METHOD, AND SOFTWARE FOR INSERTING HYPERLINKS INTO DOCUMENTS

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IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of automatically inserting hyperlinks into a document, comprising:

receiving one or more documents;

searching one or more of the documents for content having one or more predefined forms, with the predefined forms defined prior to receiving the one or more documents;

automatically marking one or more portions of one or more of the searched documents based on results of searching the one or more documents for content having one or more of the predefined forms; and

inserting one or more hyperlinks into one of more of the searched documents, with each hyperlink having a URL including at least a portion of the content of the one or more of the marked portions and a domain name associated with a computerized service for use in conducting a search based on the included portion of the ~~content~~ content;

wherein automatically marking one or more portions of one or more of the searched documents, comprises:
marking one or more legal citations in one or more of the documents; and

wherein inserting one or more hyperlinks into one of more of the searched documents, comprises:
inserting one or more hyperlinks into at least one of the documents, with each hyperlink associated with at least one of the marked legal citations and each hyperlink having a URL that includes a domain name for a legal research service and at least a portion of one of the marked legal citations.

2-18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more predefined forms includes citations to printed publications.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the marked portions includes a citation to a document, the citation including a volume identifier, a page identifier, and a publication identifier, and wherein at least one of the generated hyperlinks includes the volume, page, and publication identifiers.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 21~~ claim 20, wherein one or more of the generated hyperlinks further includes at least one search instruction.

23-24. (Canceled)

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the hyperlinks further includes account information for a user.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the hyperlinks further includes information identifying a third-party sponsor for facilitating access to a document in a database associated with the one hyperlink.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein inserting one or more hyperlinks comprises changing a font associated with one of the marked portions.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein inserting one or more hyperlinks comprises changing a font color associated with one of the marked portions.

29-31. (Canceled)

32.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14~~ claim 65:

wherein the marked portion includes a citation to a document, the citation including a

volume identifier, a page identifier, and a publication identifier; and

wherein the defined hyperlink includes the volume, page, and publication identifiers.

33.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14,~~ claim 65, wherein the hyperlink includes

at least one query connector.

34.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14,~~ claim 65, wherein the hyperlink further

includes at least one search instruction.

35.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14,~~ claim 65, wherein the hyperlink

identifies one of a natural-language search method and a boolean search method.

36.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14,~~ claim 65, wherein the hyperlink further

includes account information for a user.

37.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14,~~ claim 65, wherein the hyperlink further

includes information regarding a third-party sponsor for facilitating access to a document in a

database associated with the one hyperlink.

38.   (Canceled)

39.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14,~~ claim 65, wherein inserting one or more

hyperlinks comprises changing a font associated with one of the marked portions.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein changing the font associated

with one of the marked portions comprises underscoring the one of the marked portions.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein associating at least one of the generated hyperlinks with at least one of the marked portions includes anchoring at least one of the generated hyperlinks to at least one of the marked portions.

42.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14,~~ claim 65, wherein searching the one or more documents comprises searching for citations to other documents.

43.   (Canceled)

44.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14,~~ claim 65, wherein searching the one or more documents comprises searching for proper names.

45-64. (Canceled)

65.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 64,~~ A method of automatically inserting hyperlinks into a document, comprising:

      receiving one or more documents;

      searching one or more of the documents for content having one or more predefined

           forms, with the predefined forms defined prior to receiving the one or more

           documents;

      automatically marking one or more portions of one or more of the searched documents

           based on results of searching the one or more documents for content having one

           or more of the predefined forms; and

      inserting one or more hyperlinks into one of more of the searched documents, with each

           hyperlink having a URL including at least a portion of the content of the one or

           more of the marked portions and a domain name associated with a computerized

           service for use in conducting a search based on the included portion of the

           content;

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wherein automatically marking one or more portions of one or more of the searched

documents, comprises:

marking one or more legal citations in one or more of the documents; and

wherein inserting one or more hyperlinks into one of more of the searched documents,

comprises:

inserting one or more hyperlinks into at least one of the documents, with each

hyperlink associated with at least one of the marked legal citations and

each hyperlink having a URL that includes a domain name for a legal

research service and at least a portion of one of the marked legal citations;

and

wherein the automatic marking and the inserting occur in response to user operation of a

document-processing application having an active edit window associated with

the document-processing application, with the active edit window including at

least one of the documents.

66.   (Canceled)

67.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 66~~ claim 65, wherein the document-

processing application includes at least one of a word-processing application, a spread-

sheet application, and a presentation-development programs

68.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 66~~ claim 65, wherein the document-

processing application includes a version of Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect.

69.   (Canceled)